# Welcome to Advanced Placement Language and Composition. Successful completion of the AP Exam provides you with college credit; expect this course to be correspondingly rigorous. You will be reading and analyzing essays, novels, writing 3-5 page papers, and completing numerous timed writings in class. We only have a few months to prepare for the exam in May, so below is summer reading list. The goal of the readings for this course is analysis and argument. If possible, purchase the texts we are reading so that you can make notes, underline, and interact with the text. (Amazon.com is an excellent source for inexpensive, used books.) Post-it notes are also good for annotating the text. You may also check out books from me.

While I expect you to take these assignments seriously and do your best, I also want you to realize that this is an opportunity for both of us to assess your strengths and weaknesses. My role in this class is to coach you as you learn how to discuss and analyze. We both need to see what you can do already.

*Nickel and Dimed: on Not Getting by in America Fast Food Nation*

By Barbara Ehrenreichby Eric Schlosser

1. Read the text. Your job will be to convince me that you have done so by showing me annotations (by writing in your book or using sticky notes) or by keeping a reading log. (One chapter only for each book)

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2. Post comments and questions about your reading to the moodle site following the guidelines you received.

We will discuss each of these books in the first few weeks of class. Reading these texts prior to the school year will give us time to discuss more material without overloading you during the year. The more we can cover, the more information you will have at your command, and the more successful you will be on the test.

Learning to read carefully and analyze is easier if you discuss what you are reading. The online discussion group helps with this. If you have questions or need clarification at any time during the summer about the assignments or the course, email at home: [skbakersky@gmail.com](mailto:skbakersky@gmail.com) or [kastiles@aps.k12.co.us](mailto:kastiles@aps.k12.co.us)

Have a wonderful and productive summer. Mrs. Bakersky

**Advanced Placement Language / Composition and Technology**

Many post-secondary educational experiences now rely heavily on technology. College classes expect you to collaborate with others on-line, participate in message boards, and/or post your work on-line. Many professors post all information about their courses on a website. This class will have an on-line component as well. It is necessary that all students have an e-mail address in order to fully participate in the on-line aspects of the course. If you do not already have an e-mail address, you may sign up for a free e-mail account in a variety of places, including MSN, Hotmail, and Yahoo.

1. The AP website: <http://apslearning.net/> (accessible from the RHS homepage).

This site will have general information, messages, reminders, and course expectations as well as links to other sites you will be using in the course. A primary function of this website will be to host files that you will need to access and print for out-of-class work. Get in the habit of checking the website regularly.

2. Email Mrs. Bakersky: [kastiles@aps.k12.co.us](mailto:kastiles@aps.k12.co.us)

Always include your name in the email (I can’t always tell from your email address who you are). Also, be very specific in your request or question. As with any time you use technology, occasional difficulties may arise. If you experience such difficulties, contact me as soon as possible via e-mail: describe with as much information as possible the problem you are having and provide me with a way to contact you (email address and phone number). I will investigate the problem and get back to you as soon as possible.

Advanced Placement Language and Composition: Online Discussion Guidelines

The online discussion board is a place for you to discuss your summer reading with other members of the course. I will monitor but rarely participate in the discussion. You can comment on the text, ask questions, and respond to others’ posts. Refer to the rubric for how your postings will be graded. **Always include your name in your posts.**

**Register for the group as soon as possible and complete the test post**. This will help us identify and solve any problems before the summer. Be sure to sign your name to your posts.

You may post over either book at anytime over the summer. Post comments, questions, or responses about *Nickel and Dimed* and about *Fast Food Nation*.

Participation in the online discussions beyond the required number of posts can earn you an advanced grade. Remember, quality posts make for a quality discussion, which will only help you in your understanding of your summer reading. Your best 10 posts will be counted in the assignment grade.

**Online Discussion Guidelines**

The online discussion is a place for you to discuss your summer reading with other members of the course. We will monitor but rarely participate in the discussion. You can comment on the text, ask questions, and respond to others’ posts. Refer to the rubric for how your postings will be graded.

Quality posts make for a quality discussion, which will only help you in your understanding of your summer reading. Your best 5 posts will be counted in the assignment grade. Do not do all of your posts once you finish the book. Spread out the time when you post so that you can contribute to an ongoing discussion. This will help you to have a deeper understanding of the book.

If you have technical difficulties at home or do not have Internet access, you can use computers at the public library (or at a friend’s house) to complete your posts.

Posts will be checked for plagiarism. You need to make sure that your comments are original and not copied from an online source.

Rubric for Contributions to the Discussion Group

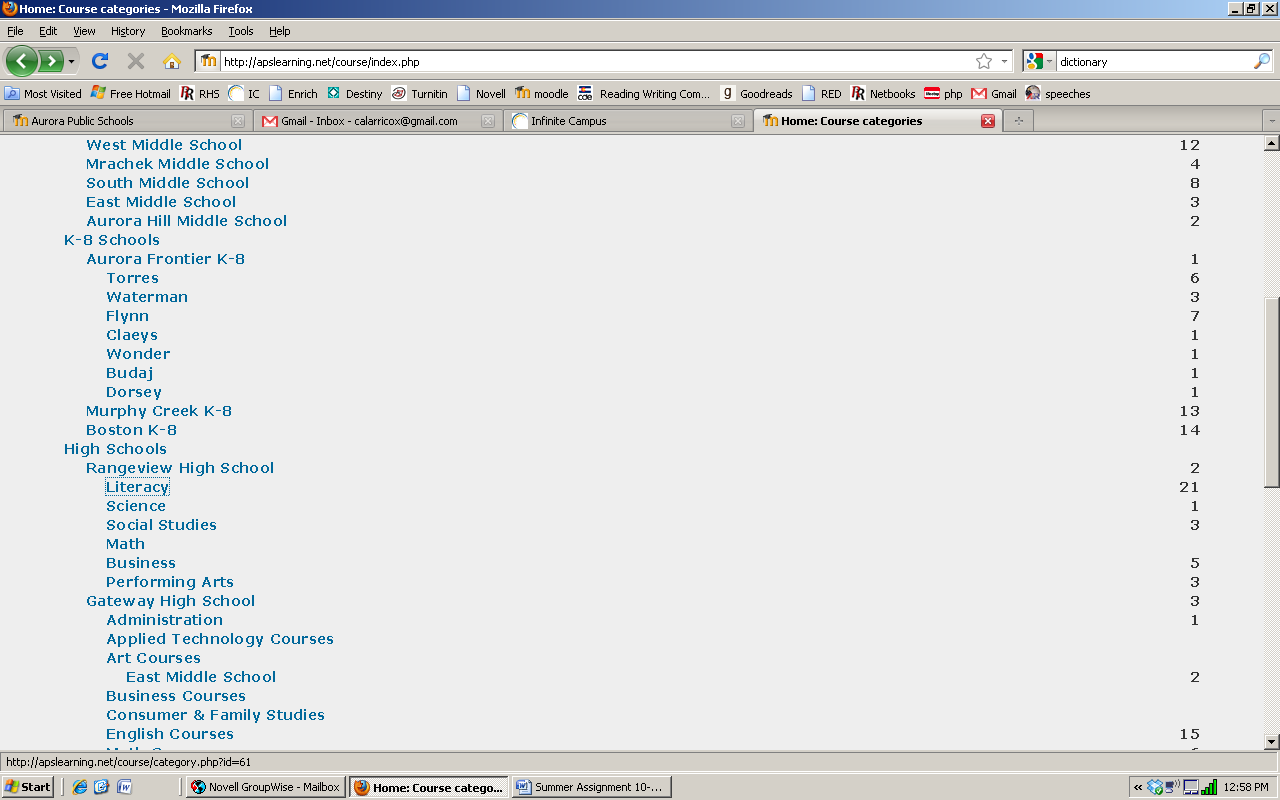
|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Partially Proficient** | **Proficient** | **Advanced** |
| **Ideas and Understanding of the Text** | Superficial comments or glib generalizations. Ideas may be merely a restatement of previously mentioned ideas. Comments are more paraphrase than analysis or may lack text support. | Comments reflect some personalized ideas but may be incomplete or generalizations. Connections may be supported with limited textual evidence. | Comments or questions are insightful beyond what is obvious or previously mentioned.  Connections are well-made and supported by specific evidence from the text. |
| **Timely**  **Contribu-tions** | Contributes to discussions infrequently or belatedly. | Contributes to discussions in a periodic, reasonable way. | Contributes to discussions in a timely way, so others have time to read and respond to postings. |
| **Responsiveness**  **to Other Postings** | Responses are superficial or repetitive. Feedback may be vague or unconstructive. | Comments may respond to others’ postings in a limited way or with another example of text support. Responses are infrequent or belated. | Responses are thoughtful; feedback is constructive, specific, and supported. Comments respond to others but extend on the original with additional ideas or support. Feed-back raises additional engaging discussions. |

Using the Online Discussion Group

Registering

1. Go to the moodle website. You can access the site from the Rangeview homepage or you can go to the site directly using the following url: <http://apslearning.net/>

2. Log in using:

Username: school identification number

Password: raiders

3. To enroll in the course, you must select the category “Literacy”

under Rangeview High School

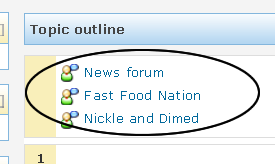
4. Select “Bakersky-AP Language & Composition” and choose

“Enroll me in this course” from the options on the

left side of your screen.

5. You are now part of the course. This will now be listed every time you log in along with any other courses you are enrolled in.

**Posting and responding to the online discussion**

1. Go to the website

2. Log-in

3. Select “AP Lang & Comp 2011-2012”

4. Select the appropriate forum for the book

that you are reading.

5. Add a new discussion topic or read the

discussions that are already going and add a reply.